



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application No. : 10/616,186 Confirmation No. 9679
Applicant : Thomas B. Johnston
Filed : July 9, 2003
TC/A.U. : 3634
Examiner : Strimbu, Gregory J.

Docket No. : 20060-0010
Customer No. : 26135

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

AMENDMENT AND REMARKS IN RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

Sir:

Applicant hereby responds to the Examiner's Office Action of October 12, 2004 in which claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 14, 18, 19, 21, 22, 24, 25, 27, 28, 35, and 36 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 2,820,259 to Zveibil (hereinafter "*Zveibil*"). Claims 3, 9, 15, 23, 29, 38, 43 and 44 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over the *Zveibil* patent in further view of U.S. Patent 1,551,753 to Lane (hereinafter "*Lane*"). The Examiner rejected claims 6, 26, 10, 30, 31, 11, 32, 12, 33, 13, 34, 16, 37, 17, 20, 39, 40, and 41 as being obvious over the *Zveibil* patent in further view of various other patents.

Please enter Applicant's response into the record as follows:

Amendments to the Specification begin on page 2 of this paper.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 4 of this paper.

Amendments to the Drawings begin on page 10 of this paper and include both attached replacement sheets and annotated sheets showing changes.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 11 of this paper.

An **Appendix** including amended drawing figures is attached following page 20 of this paper.